

August 6, 2002

Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**Hackett Timber and Livestock
Sweet Creek Livestock Exclusion Project**

Humboldt County

On June 7, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Hackett Timber and Livestock requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Sweet Creek Livestock Exclusion Project in Humboldt County. The application covers disturbances to waters of the United States associated with upgrading the existing road network and installing fence around stream bank areas in the Sweet Creek watershed. Regional Water Board staff are currently reviewing the application.

The proposed project is a component of a larger watershed plan to reduce road-related sediment by upgrading the existing road network. Two sites along a seasonal logging road were identified as high priority for sediment reduction in a 2000 road inventory funded by the California Department of Fish and Game. Repair work includes removing two culverts, installing four rocked rolling dips, armoring the inlets and outlets of rolling dips and culverts, and blocking the inlet to a gully. The project also proposes to decommission approximately 4,300 feet of road in the watershed. In addition, over 7,500 feet of electric fence will be constructed to keep livestock out of 240 acres of riparian and upslope habitat. All of these components will increase stream bank stability and improve salmonid habitat.

The California Department of Fish and Game has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exception pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is scheduled to begin September 1, 2002 and will last approximately two weeks. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869. Comments on this project should be submitted to Kirsten James at jamek@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.